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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
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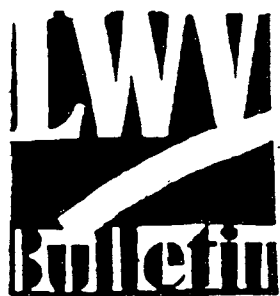
League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin

5-1998

LWV Bulletin, May, 1998

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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Huntington Area League of Women Voters

Helen Gibbins, President
736-3287
or 522-3361
gibbins@marshall.edu

Ann Speer, Treasurer
706 Ridgewood Rd.
Huntington, WV 25701
525-2244

MAY 1998

MAY 18 LEAGUE'S MEETING ON THE CABELL COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN

Allyson Schoenlein, one of the co-facilitators of the Strategic Plan for Cabell County Schools, will be the speaker at the League's meeting on May 18 at 7:30 at Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. Encourage anyone interested in our schools to attend.

The Strategic Plan for the Cabell County Schools is probably the boldest step toward improvement ever seen here. It includes not only goals but steps to achieve them. Last year at this time, 14 committees made up of people from the schools and the community were putting the finishing touches on their recommendations for positive change. The plan was adopted by the board of education on August 5. Some questions Allison will cover will be -- What has happened during this school year? What were the goals and what progress has been made?

VOTE in the primary election on May 12.

Hours are from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. The answers to the League's candidates questions will be in The Herald-Dispatch on Sunday, May 10.

GRASSROOTS LOBBY CORPS

If you are interested in receiving LWVUS action opportunities for the U.S. Congress via Email, subscribe to the League's action listserve. The new e-mail based system will allow the League to inform you about pending legislation with little delay so that you can act in an efficient time span.

TO SUBSCRIBE send an e-mail to: listserv@lwv.org and on the first line of the message write: subscribe glc-list Firstname Lastname (of course replacing Firstname and Lastname with your own)

Do not include any other text in the message. You may leave the subject field blank. You will receive a

confirmation notice when your name has been accepted into the system.

UPDATE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM.

- Urgent Grassroots Action Needed! Ask Your Representative to Vote for H.R. 3526, the Shays-Meehan Campaign Finance Reform Bill

House Republican leaders have relented in their efforts to block votes on bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation. They have promised new votes on reform by May 22, when the House is expected to adjourn for the Memorial Day recess. Debate and votes on campaign finance reform could occur at any time between now and May 22.

Under the terms of the agreement reached with the leadership, reform bills will be considered under fair rules allowing any number of bills and amendments to be offered. The base bill will be H.R. 2183, the so-called "Freshman Bill," a reform proposal crafted by first-term representatives. The Shays-Meehan bill (H.R. 3526, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 1998), which the League of Women Voters strongly supports, will be offered as a substitute amendment to the base bill.

While we applaud the efforts of the authors of the Freshman Bill, we do not support it for a variety of reasons. Among other things, we are concerned that its soft money ban is not comprehensive and would allow the soft money system to reestablish itself at the state level. Its sham issue advocacy provisions are also far inferior to those in the Shays-Meehan bill, not even providing for full disclosure of large contributions.

Opponents of reform will likely offer both poison pill amendments and numerous alternatives to the Shays-Meehan bill in an effort to divide support for Shays-Meehan while allowing all representatives to claim they voted for some reform. It is important

TALKING POINTS

- * The bipartisan Shays-Meehan bill is real campaign finance reform. While other bills would simply relocate the soft money system to the state level, Shays-Meehan has a comprehensive soft money ban. Voters will be outraged if they are told that soft money has been banned, when it is really just being laundered through state parties.
- * Unlike other bills, the bipartisan Shays-Meehan bill deals effectively and constitutionally with the growing problem of large expenditures on phony issue ads - negative, anonymous attack ads run in the final days of campaigns that are designed to evade federal election laws.
- * In the past, reform opponents have succeeded in diluting support for real reform by offering numerous bills so no single bill garners a majority. This allows everyone to claim they voted for reform, while preventing any bill from passing.

THE SPIRIT WITHIN: FOUR WEST VIRGINIA ARTISTS

The Huntington Museum of Art celebrates four contemporary regional women artists with its exhibit from May 17 through July 26. The exhibit focuses on promoting the contributions which women have made to art. The exhibit was organized and sponsored by the WV Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

WELCOME BACK members Roberta Emerson and Laurie McKeown.

THANK YOU to Martha Woodward for organizing and moderating our meeting with candidates for the Board of Education.

FACILITATORS ON HEALTH CARE POLICY NEEDED

The LWVUS is offering facilitator training sessions to prepare citizens to lead community discussions on health issues such as proposed reforms of the Medicare system, consumer protection, and regulation of managed care. Other issues which may not receive as much legislative attention but also warrant in-depth exploration include the growing problem of the uninsured, the challenge of providing long-term care to an aging population, the implementation of the children's health insurance expansion, and the changing structure of the health care industry.

If you are interested in being a facilitator, contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287.

SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Betty did it again! The Cabell-Wayne Summit for Our Children's Future, directed by Betty Barrett was a great success. Most of the speakers were children and they were stars.

Agencies to serve children have increased considerably in the past 22 years. Twenty-six agencies had exhibits to explain their programs. Volunteers (many children) were recognized as participants in the agencies. Only a handful of new recruits volunteered. What a shame! So Many Needs! So many opportunities to help a child!

The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$35 individual, \$50 for two in one household.

To join, send your check to : Ann Speer, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

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LWV Huntington Area

BULLETIN

Sally K. Adkins, Editor